



The Park Place Economist

Volume 7 | Issue 1

Article 5

1999

Alumni Notes

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Recommended Citation

Dusek '01, Julie (1999) "Alumni Notes," *The Park Place Economist*: Vol. 7
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/parkplace/vol7/iss1/5>

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Alumni Notes

Alumni Notes

By Julie Dusek

Larry Stimpert, '80, earned his Ph.D. in Business strategy from the University of Illinois, and then taught for several years at Michigan State. In 1996, he moved to Colorado College after deciding that he wanted to get back into a liberal arts environment. He currently teaches courses in business organization and strategy in the Department of Economics and Business.

Peter Berg, '83, is now teaching at the School of Labor and Industrial Relations at Michigan State University.

Ron Zimmer, '92, received his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in December 1997. He is now employed as an economist for Wilbur Smith Associates in Columbia, South Carolina.

Paul Halley, '94, graduated with an MBA from the Owen School of Management at Vanderbilt University in 1998. He is currently employed in Chicago as a consultant for SAP America, which is the North American consulting arm of the German software company SAP (the global leader in enterprise resource planning software).

Risa Kumazawa, '94, is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Texas at Austin. Her fields are labor economics, econometrics, and monetary theory.

Ossi Saarinen, '94, received an MBA from Purdue University in 1997. He is currently working for United Technologies-Carrier Corporation. He recently returned to the U.S. after a six month job assignment in Spain.

Gnanika (Suriarachchi) Wijayaratne, '94, attends graduate school at Texas A&M University.

Kara Rocheleau, '95, will be graduating from the Amos Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College with her MBA this June. She will then

return to General Mills, where she was employed before Tuck. Kara will be an Assistant Marketing Manager working specifically on New Products in the Big G Cereal Division.

Junaid Ahmed, '96, worked for two years at BRAC, a large, private national development agency in Bangladesh. He has since taken a position with the BBC World Service Radio in London where he is a Producer.

Gwendolyn Alexander, '96, is now in her third year of graduate school at the University of Maryland, College Park. She is specializing in development and industrial organization. She is starting on the dissertation process now, and will most likely be concentrating on microenterprise development. Gwen has also been interning at the U.S. Agency for International Development in Washington, DC, in addition to teaching International Economics at the University of Maryland.

Jesse Boyle, '96, is one of three team developers at Tenneco Packaging Co., Inc.

Faizal Chaudhury, '96, is a senior auditor with Ernst & Young L.L.P. in Chicago.

Diana Imaka, '96 is currently pursuing her MBA degree specializing in international business and strategy at the City University Business School in London, England.

Angela Smith, '96, is teaching English for a private language school in Osaka, Japan.

Ming Sun Wan, '96, has been working in New York City as an equity trader for the past three years. He is currently working for the largest listed Singaporean broker, Vickers Ballas (USA) Inc., based in New York City.

Anurag Sanyal, '96, originally took a job with Goldman Sachs. He has now left, with a partner, to start a hedge fund.

Jennifer Heskitt, '97, works for Keane, Inc., a

software consulting firm. She updates software and consults business and institutional clients on its use.

Matt Mikulcik, '97, is employed by Hewitt Associates, a health and pension benefits consulting firm.

Ashwin Kapur, '98, is training to be a trader with the global equities derivatives group at J. P. Morgan in New York City.

Anjali Shah, '98, has taken a position as an auditor with the U.S. Department of Education.

I would like to thank everyone who replied to my request for updated information. The alumni of Illinois Wesleyan University's Economics Department is perhaps the best group in terms of keeping in contact with the department.

From Bloomington to the Big Apple: Why Not?

By Julie Dusek

Dave Antolik ('97) is a living testament that a degree in economics can take you anywhere. Dave works as an analyst in the Investment Banking division of Donaldson, Lufkin, & Jenrette, a Global Investment Bank in downtown Manhattan. He conducts analyses that center around companies' abilities and desires to undertake financing. Specifically, he works in the Private Placement Group, where his direct focus is on a specific product group and private placements. Dave gets to work with companies that are relatively entrepreneurial. A great deal of his clients are recently created companies with innovative business plans that need financing in order to implement their business plan. But, the best part of his job is the exposure he gets and the responsibility that he is afforded. He says that he has had the opportunity to work with entrepreneurial companies and see them as they attempt to finance themselves for future growth. "I speak with institutional investors regarding our

offerings. I work with CEOs and CFOs of successful companies in situations where I am allowed to make meaningful contributions. This is an opportunity that I think is hard to come by for most people only two years out of college."

How, one might ask, does a student at a small liberal arts university in central Illinois get a job like this in New York? First, he researched his opportunities and targeted what he wanted to do. Dave then looked for a job within the investment banking/corporate finance arena. And, the best opportunities in this arena are in New York. According to Dave, "A person is exposed to a greater part of the investment banking world when in New York." So, he worked some connections to get an interview, interviewed, and was eventually offered a position.

One might think that life changes dramatically when you move from central Illinois to "The Big Apple", but Dave does not see his life as changing much. Basically, he "wakes up, goes to work, and then comes home when he is finished." However, he does not intend to continue this daily routine from now until the day he retires. Dave hopes to go on to graduate school in business with a joint degree in a separate discipline. "I do know that I have a fondness for academic pursuits and I feel I want to learn more in a scholastic environment. I miss having the opportunity to learn in this type of environment. I rarely have the time to pursue matters for pure intellectual pleasure." In addition to pursuing graduate school, Dave also knows that he would one day like to teach. "In my mind, [teaching] is the best way to make a significant impact on society."

What impact did the education that Dave received from Illinois Wesleyan University have on his life? Well, as you know, Dave majored in economics. "(Economics) simply made sense. With economics, events I had dismissed as coincidences became sensible causal relationships." Dave's micro skills come in handy when he is analyzing competitive relationships and pricing predicaments facing companies. He states that he is able to find cause and effect relationships due to his economics training that others may not see. On a broader scale, the school "possesses a certain innocence that should